



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **SFWG Minutes 10/15/2008**

**School Facilities Working Group**  
**October 15, 2008**

### **Members Present**

Ron Spangler, School Committee, Chair  
Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent  
Brian Sullivan, Town Manager  
Allan Tosti, Finance Committee  
Clarissa Rowe, Board of Selectmen  
Charlie Foskett, Capital Planning Committee  
Stephen Gilligan, Treasurer  
Michael Ruderman, Town Meeting, Thompson  
Michael Healy, Town Meeting, Stratton

### **Also Present**

Sheri Donovan, Principal, Thompson  
Dave Finney, Design Partnership of Cambridge  
Sue Mazzarella, CFO, Arlington Public Schools  
Denise Burns, Chair, Arlington School Committee  
Sean Garballey, Representative, 23rd Middlesex

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

### **1. MSBA Updates**

Ms. Mazzarella reviewed information she had learned from a presentation by Katherine Craven, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) at a recent Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents meeting. MSBA is asking districts to refresh their Statement of Interest (SOIs) by November 15th, using a new form. MSBA feels it did not ask the right questions the first time around (summer of 2007). Mr. Gilligan asked about the reduction in MSBA's funding due to declining sales tax revenues. Ms. Mazzarella said payments for completed projects are safe.

Rep. Garballey explained that he has met with Ms. Craven several times.

Mr. Spangler presented information he had gained from a conversation with Sean Walsh of MSBA. Rather than do the detailed facilities assessment at Thompson, as we had expected after our February meeting at their offices, MSBA now wants us to submit a refreshed SOI and have Thompson considered amongst the other schools that similarly submit SOIs in this second round.

### **2. Introduction of Dave Finney/Design Partnership of Cambridge**

Mr. Finney has been assisting the school department in preparing the refreshed SOI for Thompson. He explained that DPC worked on schematic plans for Stratton and Thompson in 2002-03 in preparation for submission to the old DOE SBAB. These plans were not submitted before the old program was suspended in 2003. Mr. Finney explained that the strategy for the new SOI is to claim higher priorities than #5 and #7, which were claimed in 2007. He feels Arlington can claim priority #1 based on the steam piping failure, and possibly #4 based on growing enrollments that exceed forecast models.

### **3. Refreshed Thompson Statement of Interest**

The working group discussed the current draft of the refreshed SOI for Thompson, prepared by Superintendent Bodie, CFO Mazzearella, Principal Donovan and Mr. Spangler. Rep. Garballey said that Katherine Craven had told him the original SOI was not compelling, and advised we paint a more dire picture this time around to get MSBA's attention. The general conversation was along these lines, with all members advising a crisper, more impactful writing style, in one voice, as well as claiming priority #1.

Ms. Burns asked about the Model School Program. Mr. Finney explained that only applied to high schools.

Mr. Foskett asked about the engineering assessments the SFWG decided to do at an earlier meeting. Mr. Spangler said he thought the group had agreed to wait for MSBA to do its facilities assessment at Thompson before doing an in-house assessment, but since MSBA had not done so, it was probably time to revisit the in house study. The SFWG discussed the scope of such an assessment.

### **4. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by:  
Ron Spangler, Chair  
May 8, 2009

*Approved by SFWG on May 7, 2009*